

AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) An inflator for an air ~~bag comprising:~~ bag, comprising:
a cylindrical inflator housing ~~charged~~ charged with a pressurized medium inside and
formed with an opening portion ~~at the axial end portion;~~ at an axial end portion thereof;
a diffuser portion installed at the opening portion of the inflator housing, provided with a
gas discharging ~~port and port,~~ and having an inner space extending from the opening portion to
the gas discharging port as a gas flow passage;
a rupturable plate provided in the gas flow passage inside the diffuser portion to seal
outflow ~~of a pressurized~~ of the pressurized medium;
~~an ignition~~ ignition means accommodated inside the diffuser portion and ~~rupturing~~
adapted to rupture the rupturable ~~plate by~~ plate upon activation; and
a gas discharging duct extending from the gas discharging port and having a distal end
branched in opposite two directions, wherein
an orifice portion for regulating a gas flow amount is formed in the gas flow passage
inside the diffuser portion while distal ends of the branched portions in the gas discharging duct
are formed with ~~plural~~ a plurality of openings, and
the ~~plural~~ plurality of openings provided at the distal end of the branched portion in the
gas discharging duct are formed such that the total opening area thereof is larger than the
opening area of the orifice portion.

2. (currently amended) An inflator for an air bag according to claim 1, wherein the total opening area of the ~~plural~~plurality of openings provided at one of the distal ends of the branched portion in the gas discharging duct is different from the total opening area of the ~~plural~~plurality of openings provided at the other distal end of the branched portion.

3. (currently amended) An inflator for an air bag according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the inflator housing has a cylindrical shape elongated ~~axially rather than radially~~in an axial direction thereof, and the branched portion of the gas discharging duct is formed in a substantially "T"-letter shape.

4. (currently amended) An inflator for an air bag according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the inflator housing has a cylindrical shape elongated ~~axially rather than radially~~in an axial direction thereof, and the gas discharging duct extends ~~in an axial~~in the axial direction of the inflator housing to then turn at one or at least two portions and the branched portion formed in the substantially "T"-letter shape is provided ahead thereof.

5. (currently amended) An inflator for an air bag according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the rupturable plate is formed in a disk shape, and each opening of the ~~plural~~plurality of openings provided at the distal ends of the branched portion in the gas discharging duct is formed to have a diameter smaller than a radius of the rupturable plate.

6. (currently amended) An inflator for an air bag according to claim 1 or 2, wherein end surfaces of the distal ends of the branched portion in the gas discharging duct are

closed and the plurality of openings are formed on peripheries of the distal ends of the branched portion.

7. (currently amended) An inflator for an air bag according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ignition means includes an igniter ~~receiving~~ adapted to receive an electric signal ~~to be activated~~ upon activation, and the igniter is arranged inside the diffuser portion to cross the axis of the inflator housing.